

Claims

1. (Currently amended) A method of communicating with a user of a processor-based device over a network, the method comprising:
 - ~~receiving by a first user a body-less electronic mail message,~~
 - processing body-less email messages that have a subject line and lack a message body capable of receiving message content and email messages with a message body capable of receiving message content;
 - converting a synchronous communication between a first user and a second user into a body-less electronic mail message, the body-less electronic mail message having a subject line and lacking a message body capable of receiving message content, the subject line of the body-less electronic mail message containing at least one text message transmitted during the synchronous communication;
 - receiving from the first user, while the first user has the body-less electronic mail message selected, a command to ~~initiate~~ conduct synchronous communications with [a] the second user;
 - converting, in response to the command from the first user, the body-less electronic mail message into a synchronous communications format that includes each text message contained in the subject line of the body-less electronic mail message; and
 - initiating, in response to the command from the first user, synchronous communications between the first and second users to present each text message contained in the subject line of the converted body-less electronic mail message to the first and second users in the synchronous communications format.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the subject line of the body-less electronic mail message includes one or more other text messages

3 taken from a subject line of a previous body-less electronic mail message.

1 3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the subject line of the body-
2 less electronic mail message includes one or more other text messages
3 taken from a chat conversation converted into a format of a body-less
4 electronic mail message.

1 4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving the body-
2 less electronic mail message over the network, displaying the body-less
3 electronic mail message on a display screen as a line item in a mailbox
4 view, and displaying on the display screen an entire contents of the
5 subject line when a cursor is positioned over a subject column of the line
6 item.

1 5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving the body-
2 less electronic mail message over the network, displaying the body-less
3 electronic mail message on a display screen as a line item in a mailbox
4 view having a column for the subject line, and displaying on the display
5 screen a scroll bar arrow at one end of the subject line column, when a
6 cursor is positioned over the subject column of the line item, for
7 horizontally scrolling through the contents of the subject line.

1 6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising inserting a
2 delimiter into the subject line to separate the text message from a
3 previous text message currently included in the subject line.

1 7. (canceled)

1 8. (Canceled)

1 9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising

2 displaying on a user interface a chat-like graphical window for engaging
3 in the synchronous communications.

1 10. - 32. (cancelled)

1 33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising giving
2 the first user an option to reply to the received body-less electronic mail
3 message with an electronic mail message having a message body.

1 34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising
2 automatically generating a body-less electronic mail message when the
3 first user chooses to reply to or forward the received body-less electronic
4 mail message.

1 35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 34, further comprising
2 automatically placing a delineator between a text message presently in
3 the subject line of the body-less electronic mail message when the first
4 user receives the body-less electronic mail message and a text message
5 subsequently added to the subject line after the first user chooses to
6 reply to or forward the received body-less electronic mail message.

1 36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the delineator
2 includes a carriage return so that the text message subsequently added
3 to the subject line appears on a new line within the subject line.

1 37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising
2 automatically signing each text message in the subject line with an
3 identity of an author of that text message.

1 38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising
2 presenting to a user an option to choose between generating a body-less

3 electronic mail message and generating an electronic mail message with
4 a message body.

1 39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising
2 preventing the first user from deleting content from the subject line of
3 the received body-less electronic mail message.

1 40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 displaying the received body-less electronic mail message on a
3 display screen as a line item in a mailbox view; and
4 displaying an indicator in association with the line item to identify
5 the line item as a body-less electronic mail message.

1 41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 receiving, by the first user, synchronous communications from the
3 second user;
4 receiving, from the first user, a command to initiate asynchronous
5 communications with the second user;
6 converting, in response to the command to initiate asynchronous
7 communications, the received synchronous communications into a
8 second body-less electronic mail message; and
9 transmitting the second body-less electronic mail message to the
10 second user over the network.

1 42. (New) A method of communicating with a user of a processor-based
2 device over a network, the method comprising:
3 converting a first synchronous electronic communication into a
4 body-less electronic mail message, the body-less electronic mail message
5 having a subject line and lacking a message body capable of receiving
6 message content, the subject line of the body-less electronic mail

7 message containing at least one text message transmitted during the first
8 synchronous communication;

9 receiving the body-less electronic email message by a user over the
10 network; and

11 automatically converting, in response to a command from the user,
12 the body-less electronic mail message into a second synchronous
13 electronic communication.

1 43. (New) A method of communicating with a user of a processor-based
2 device over a network, the method comprising:

3 converting a first body-less electronic mail message into a
4 synchronous electronic communication, the first body-less electronic
5 mail message having a subject line and lacking a message body capable
6 of receiving message content, the subject line of the body-less electronic
7 mail message containing at least one text message;

8 receiving the synchronous electronic communication by a user
9 over the network; and

10 automatically converting, in response to a command from the user,
11 the synchronous electronic communication into a second body-less
12 electronic mail message, the second body-less electronic mail message
13 having a subject line containing the at least one text message of the first
14 electronic mail message and lacking a message body capable of receiving
15 message content.